

Monday, 9 April 1956

Dear Dan:

I hasten to comply with the reasonable request contained in Dean Heckel's letter.

Certainly, all of us were in agreement that the results of a Community Survey would have given us the direction we needed. However, we should continue to devote time to publicity and educational programs. The picture, which appeared in last week's papers, showed a white boy with the colored boy whom he had rescued from drowning. I don't expect us to plan a series of such rescues, but, that type of incident should receive all the publicity it deserves. You may have noticed how some leading television shows, which go into the homes of the prejudiced as well as the home of the less-prejudiced, tell their stories so naturally that a mixture of races and colors on the screen seems very natural indeed.

Here again, it is obvious that we can't produce such shows, but we can acknowledge the effectiveness of the stories they tell. Perhaps a series of stories on radio might be within our budget (if you get free time).

If the commission could assist a few changing neighborhoods to learn "The Teaneck Story" we could make a very worthwhile contribution to the community.

The field of public housing has received much critical attention. Perhaps the commission could assist or advise our citizens who are making a change from the slum conditions under which they have lived for years. The assistance would act as a bridge over which these people could walk as they make - what must be a very radical - transition in their way of living.

I hope this helps to answer the question of what this Mark guy is thinking.